

Year at a Glance—2003

january

The Natural Resource Information Division launches the intranet site for NPS research and learning centers at http://www1.nrintra.nps.gov/learning_centers.

More than 60 park managers and resource specialists from western parks gather in Phoenix for the first NPS Western Energy Summit to discuss energy development planned near parks (see page 64).

Superintendents and staffs from 17 U.S. and 9 Canadian national parks designated as world heritage sites meet to begin a process of reporting on their participation in the World Heritage program and the condition of the sites they manage.

february

Director Mainella cuts the symbolic “last” melaleuca tree, an invasive species, in Big Cypress National Preserve, Florida (see page 15).

The Secretary of the Interior announces that regulations and general management plans for the protection of the new Virgin Islands Coral Reef National Monument and expanded Buck Island Reef National Monument will go forward (see page 53).

march

Director Mainella announces the winners of the 2002 Director’s Awards for Natural Resource Management.

april

The National Park Service, Bureau of Reclamation, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service enter into an agreement with the Colorado Water Conservation Board to resolve water rights issues affecting Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park.

The Environmental Protection Agency announces a legal settlement with Virginia Electric and Power Company that will benefit air quality in Shenandoah National Park and the entire Mid-Atlantic region by 2015.

The final Clean Water Act permit for the Washington Aqueduct is issued and will result in significant reductions in discharged sediments and other pollutants, thereby protecting resources of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park and the aquatic resources of the Potomac River (see page 70).

The NPS Fire Program, the Biological Resource Management Division, and the Colorado Plateau Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit sponsor a workshop for parks in the Intermountain Region on integrating fire planning with the planning and management of natural and cultural resources.